

Town of Washington

News and Calendar



February 2007

Town Budget for 2007 – Recap

The Town Board spent many hours during the last few months of 2006 crafting a budget that would fulfill the needs of the Town while having the least possible impact on taxes.

To demonstrate that the Town Board was successful in holding the line on controllable expenses, the expense budget for the categories over which the Town has control – General Government, Public Safety, Public Works, Culture, Recreation and Education, and Health and Human Services – was actually \$734 less for 2007 than the budgeted amount for 2006.

The total expenses for 2007 are budgeted at \$1,751,388. This breaks down as follows:

General Government	\$178,544
– a decrease of \$14,277 from 2006	
Public Safety	\$272,761
– a decrease of \$5,824 from 2006	
Public Works	\$486,684
– an increase of \$8,585 over 2006	
Culture, Rec and Education	\$331,535
(See note below)	
Health & Human Services	\$143,501
– an increase of \$101 over 2006	
Welcome Center & Misc.	\$338,363
(See note below)	

Notes: 1) The total of \$331,535 for Culture, Rec and Education is actually reduced by \$224,257, as expenses for the Recreation Center are reimbursed to the Town, making that line budget neutral.

2) The \$143,501 for Health & Human Services is almost entirely the subsidy of \$135,500 paid to North Shore Medical Clinic. Of this amount, \$30,000 is paid back to the Town as rent for the Clinic space, making the net expense to the Town \$105,500.

3) The \$338,363 in the category of Welcome Center and Miscellaneous is almost entirely composed of the \$331,188 in the capital outlay, or debt service line. This increase of \$187,308 over 2006 was accounted for in large measure by the fact that 2007 is the first year in which we are making payments on the large road improvement loan.

At the end of 2006, the Town had total cash on hand amounting to \$357,332. After accounting for the excess of expenditures over revenues of \$141,425, the Town's cash reserves at the beginning of 2007 amounted to \$215,907.



At a rehearsal of Island Players' production of "The Diary of Ann Frank: L-R Robin Swanson as Ann Frank, Rylee Johnson as Margot Frank and Kate Kaniff as Mrs. Frank. Not pictured are Jens Hansen as Mr. Frank, Maggie Swanson as Miep, Laurie Seebart as Mrs. Van Daan, Ham Rutledge as Mr. Van Daan, Tim Green as Peter Van Daan, Phil Green as Mr. Kraler and Tom Noonan as Mr. Dussel. The play will be presented on February 16 at 7:00 pm and February 17 at 2:00 and 7:00 pm at Karly's Dance Hall.

After considerable discussion, the Town Board decided to use a portion of these reserves to substantially reduce the Town's debt service. Therefore, the Board authorized the Clerk/Treasurer to reduce the Wisconsin Retirement System buy-back loan by an

additional \$40,000 on top of the \$40,000 owed in 2007. Including the \$15,000 in interest owed for 2007, this loan was reduced from \$299,000 to \$204,000. Since 2005, the Town Board has been able to reduce this loan by almost half – from the original \$399,000 to \$204,000.

In addition, the Clerk/Treasurer was authorized to completely pay off the small road improvement loan of \$26,557.56; and the loan of \$21,209.68 to purchase the Fire Department brush truck in 2006. Also, the remaining Gunnlaugsson property loan of \$70,002.79, previously scheduled to be paid off in 2008 will be paid off in 2007. With these payments, the Town's total indebtedness will be reduced by \$302,207.20 from \$747,900.53 at the end of 2006 to \$445,693.33 at the end of 2007.

New Ambulance

Some people have expressed concern over how the new ambulance, ordered by the Town Board in December of 2006, would be financed.

AMBULANCE PURCHASE FROM NORTH CENTRAL AMBULANCE

Sales & Service before trade-in	\$132,242.00
Less Removal of LifePal	\$(340.00)
Subtotal before Trade-in	\$131,902.00
Trade-in Allowance	\$(5,000.00)
TOTAL COST	\$126,902.00
Rescue Squad Equipment Fund CD	\$(100,362.36)
Interest anticipated Jan 2007 on Equipment Funds	\$(4,472.77)
2007 Budgeted Amount for Rescue Squad Equipment Fund	\$(10,000.00)
BALANCE DUE	\$12,066.87
EMS-FAP Money Market Account	\$(12,066.87)
Balance Due	\$0.00

Continued on reverse.

Caregiver Support Group Formed

A support group for people who are serving as caregivers for others has been formed. The group, which now includes between 6 and 8 people, meets weekly on Mondays at 1:00 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church. Anyone who is caring for another and would like the support of others having similar experiences is welcome to join. For information, call Ellen Graf at 847-2484 or Carol Amadio at 847-2419.

According to Carole Machek, RN, MSN, the coordinator of the Washington Island Community Health Program (WICHP), "Caring for a family member due to the effects of chronic illness and/or disability is rapidly becoming a fact of life. In fact, family caregivers provide more than 80% of all home care services. Providing care for a loved one can be very rewarding but it can also be very stressful. In fact, research shows that caregivers run a high risk of depression and stress-related illness. Close to half of all caregivers report feeling anxious or suffer emotional stress and one third feels guilty and resentful. Many times they do not look after their own health and have little time for themselves."

The Caregiver Support Group was formed to help address these issues. This November, an educational program titled "Powerful Tools for Caregivers" was presented through WICHP and Door County Senior Resource Center, and additional such programs are planned for the future.

Election Information

Please remember to request an absentee ballot if you will be away for the February 20 Primary or April 3 General Elections!

The elections will be upon us before we know it. The primary election is February 20, 2007 and the election is April 3, 2007. Persons wishing an absentee ballot must either come into the Town Office or call or write to request an application for an absentee ballot (EB-121). Absentee ballots for which applications have been received will be mailed out when the ballots are available. Please note that if two electors at the same address request absentee ballots, each must sign the letter requesting them.

People who are not registered to vote and are eligible to register on Washington Island may do so in the Town Office or at the polling place in the Rutledge Room on Election Day. Registrants must bring a valid Wisconsin driver's license and, if that does not show a Washington Island address, proof of residence. A qualified voter must have

been a resident for at least ten days prior to the date of the election. Wisconsin recently implemented a state-wide voter registration system which has brought about some changes to the registration process. However, our well-trained poll workers can assist in making the process go well and will protect each person's confidentiality. If a person is a Wisconsin resident, currently registered in another municipality, and wishes to vote on Washington Island, the poll workers will have a form to enable them to cancel the previous registration and register as a Washington Island voter.

If a voter wishes to write in a vote for a candidate not on the ballot, which is an option available to each voter, please make certain that such a vote is cast for a viable candidate – who is an actual person. Votes for "Mickey Mouse," "Santa Claus," etc. are registered as valid and must be hand recorded by the poll workers on Form EB-105 as required by Wisconsin Statute 7.51. Not only does this tallying take time, it must then be turned over to the County and becomes a part of the Town's election record. In short – voting is one of the most precious rights and privileges we have as American citizens and casting frivolous votes cheapens the election process.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

Information on Scam

Officer Tyler McGrane has asked that the following information be provided to the citizens of Washington Island. If you have any information, please contact Officer McGrane at 920-847-2355.

Wisconsin Law Enforcement Memorial, Inc. (WLEM) recently received information concerning a telephone scam.

Citizens have been receiving calls asking for money to support Wisconsin Law Enforcement Memorial. The Wisconsin Memorial organization does not use telephone solicitation to raise money.

Wisconsin Law Enforcement Memorial, Inc. is registered with the State of Wisconsin as a charity and is supported through donations and fundraising events but, never through telephone solicitation. Any call asking for money for the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Memorial is a fraud and illegal. Wisconsin Law Enforcement Memorial, Inc. is asking anyone who receives such a call to gather as much information as possible and report it to local law enforcement and WLEM.

There are many honest organizations that support the families and agencies of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. Most legitimate organizations do not use telephone solicitation.

Chamber of Commerce – Celebrating Winter

The Washington Island Chamber of Commerce plans for the period of the annual Lions Club Fish Derby include:

- Friday, Feb. 9th – Fish Derby begins
8:00 am Photo Contest begins;
drop off photos at Ferry Office.
11:30 am – Chamber of Commerce Chili Cook-Off at KK Fiske.
5:00 to 7:00 pm – Ableskeivers diner at Bethel Church.
- Sunday, Feb. 11th
2:00 pm Heritage Nature Trail walk/ski – meet at trail entrance on Lobdell Point Road
2:30 – 4:00 pm – Warm up at Red Cup Coffee Shop.
1:00 – 4:00 pm - Bowling at Karly's in "The Cellar."
- Tuesday, Feb. 13
5:00 – 8:00 pm - Bowling at Karly's in "The Cellar."
- Friday, Feb. 16th
7:00 pm – Island Players presents "The Diary of Anne Frank" at Karly's Dancehall.
- Saturday, Feb. 17th
10:00 am – W. I. Forum at Community Center Gym.
1:00 pm – Photo Contest ends
2:00 pm – Island Players presents "The Diary of Anne Frank" at Karly's Dancehall.
7:00 pm – Island Players presents "The Diary of Anne Frank" at Karly's Dancehall.



Town Chairman